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Watch Committee

Watch Report

NSA review completed

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12 December 1974

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COMBINED WATCH REPORT
of the
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

No. 1268

12 December 1974
(As of 1500 EST)

The Committee concludes that there will be no military attack on the United States or its overseas forces in the near future. Subjects of immediate concern are discussed below.

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I. Middle East

In view of the reduced tension in the area, we do not believe that an outbreak of large-scale Arab-Israeli hostilities is likely in the immediate future. Nonetheless, Egyptian, Syrian and Israeli military forces are maintaining a high state of military preparedness. Israel's public stance on seeking another disengagement agreement with Egypt as a means to gain time, to separate Egypt from Syria and to prevent an Egyptian-Soviet rapprochement, has further complicated the negotiating process. The next complicating factor will be Brezhnev's visit to Cairo which could produce new pressures.

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II. Cyprus

Archbishop Makarios' presence on Cyprus has not so far produced serious incidents. Tensions continue to exist, however, not only between the Greeks and Turks, but among rival Greek factions. We believe that Turkish forces on the island will not take any overt action unless Turkish Cypriots are endangered.

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III. USSR-Eastern Europe

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We see no indications of hostile intent in the military activity of the USSR or other Warsaw Pact nations.

IV. Southeast Asia

The marked increase in military action in the Delta may indicate the beginning of the Communists' dry season campaign in the southern half of South Vietnam. We expect the Communists to continue their pressure on government units in Military Region 4 and to launch further attacks in MR 3 similar to those recently noted in Tay Ninh Province.

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